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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 29 January 2001 - 2 February 2001
Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

(U//~~AIUO~~) 15 February 2001: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA, Washington, DC.

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//~~AIUO~~) 15 March 2001: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EOB, Washington, DC.

(U//~~AIUO~~) June 2001: Historical Review Panel (HRP): Next meeting at CIA

(U//~~AIUO~~) October 2001: The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended, for unreviewed general material older than 25 years.

(U//~~AIUO~~) April 2003: The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended, for unreviewed intelligence-related or multi-agency records.

Overview of IRR Activities Last Week:

(U//~~AIUO~~) Historical Review Panel

(U//~~AIUO~~) DCI's Historical Review Panel Convenes for Semi-annual Meeting

(U//~~AIUO~~) The DCI's Historical Review Panel, chaired by Dr. Robert Jervis of Columbia University, convened on 1-2 February at the Agency. The Panel's agenda included briefings on Foreign Relations of the US (FRUS) issues

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(b)(5)

During the second day, the Panel met in executive session with the DDCI. The Panel will submit a formal report in writing to the DCI and issue a statement to the public on the results of the meeting.

- *The Historical Review Panel, which meets semi-annually, is a prestigious seven member panel of historians and academicians appointed by the DCI. The Panel's mission is to advise the DCI on the systematic and automatic declassification review of historical documents under the provisions of EO 12958, and on OIM's voluntary declassification initiatives, as well as to provide guidance for the historical research and writing programs of the CIA History Staff.*

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(U//~~AIUO~~) Litigation

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(U//~~AIUO~~) District Judge Grants CIA's Request for 2-year Stay in Al-Fayed Case
(U//~~AIUO~~) United States District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 16 January granted the CIA's motion for a 24-month Open America stay of proceedings in the Al-Fayed and *Punch* magazine v. CIA lawsuit. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit seeks records that the CIA and other agencies might have about the deaths of Princess Diana and Mr. Al-Fayed's son, Dodi Al-Fayed, in a Paris car accident. The lawsuit also seeks records concerning the bizarre extortion plot in which an imposter attempted to sell to Mr. Al-Fayed fraudulent CIA documents purporting to show British intelligence involvement in the accident. The CIA sought a two-year period in which to respond to the far-reaching request, and argued that it faces exceptional circumstances in responding to thousands of FOIA and Privacy Act requests annually. The Court agreed, and found that the Agency is exercising due diligence and is making substantial progress in reducing its backlog of pending FOIA requests and therefore is entitled to additional time to respond to plaintiff. (b)(3)

(U//~~AIUO~~) Mohamed Al-Fayed Files Second FOIA Lawsuit Against CIA
(U//~~AIUO~~) Billionaire Mohamed Al-Fayed and *Punch* Magazine, which he owns, have filed a second Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the CIA and several other agencies. Mr. Al-Fayed's initial FOIA request and first lawsuit sought records that the Agency might have about the deaths of Princess Diana and his son, Dodi Al-Fayed, in a Paris car accident. Mr. Al-Fayed's most recent request is for information concerning how the CIA responded to his initial FOIA request and lawsuit. Specifically, he seeks records concerning the Agency's processing of his first request and his first lawsuit, and any communications with the media. He also asked for expedited processing of the request.

- *The agency had not conducted a search for responsive records when the most recent suit was filed. The CIA denied the request for expedited processing because it did not meet the statutory requirements and the Agency's regulatory criteria.* (b)(3)

(U//~~AIUO~~) FOIA Requests

(U//~~AIUO~~) Editor of Kansas Publication Requests Document on Papal Enclave
(U//~~AIUO~~) A contributing editor with a Kansas publication titled *On Wings* requested a 6 June 1963 declassified report without specifying a subject.

- *The FOIA case officer contacted the requester who explained she was interested in a 1963 report pertaining to the papal enclave selecting a new pope. The CIA provided the requester a previously released* DI Current Intelligence Memorandum *on the subject.* (b)(3)

(U//~~AIUO~~) Frequent Requester Interested in Intelligence Reports on China
(U//~~AIUO~~) Noted intelligence writer Jeffrey Richelson requested three reports from the early 1970s pertaining to Chinese intelligence collection. The titles include "Probable Chinese Collection of US Satellite Imagery [1973]," "Communist Chinese Attempts to Obtain Maps and Related Information [1971]," and "Communist Chinese Geodesy as Related to Missile Accuracy [1970]."

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(U//~~AIUO~~) CIA Denies Request for Information on Chinese Nationals
(U//A~~IUO~~) A Newark, New Jersey attorney requested documents about four military and intelligence personnel of the People's Republic of China.

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(U//A~~IUO~~) OIM Declassification Center

(U//A~~IUO~~) CIA's Declassification Guide a Step Closer to Approval

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(U//~~AIUO~~) On 31 January, representatives from the OIM Declassification Center briefed Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) staffers on the Agency's declassification guide. After the briefing, the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), which provides administrative support to ISCAP, strongly endorsed the CIA's guide. The guide will be further discussed at the ISCAP staffers' next meeting set for 15 February, and could come before the ISCAP Principals for approval as early as 15 March.

- *The CIA's declassification guide is a tool used by the OIM Declassification Center reviewers to identify exemptions from automatic declassification of specific information. Per Executive Order 12958, each agency's declassification guide must be approved by ISCAP.*

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(U//~~AIUO~~) Publications Review Board

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